



## FAQs: Updates to Administrative Order 20-7

*The following are frequently asked questions tied to updates made to Administrative Order 20-7: Procedures for Responding to Individuals with Confirmed Cases of, Symptoms of, or Exposure to COVID-19 in January 2022. If you have questions about how the updated guidelines impact your ability to report to in-person work, please reference the relevant [decision tree](#).*

### **Why are you making these updates now?**

The updates to Administrative Order 20-7 are in response to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) updated guidance on isolation and testing and to advice from local public health officials. The COVID pandemic continues to be dynamic, which requires changes to policy over time, including changes in response to what has been learned about the Omicron variant.

### **Are these updates compromising the safety of in-person workers and those they serve?**

These updates reflect a conservative interpretation of the CDC's latest guidelines and prioritize isolation, testing, and high-quality masks to respond to risks of the spread of COVID-19 infection.

### **What are considered high-risk facilities?**

High-risk facilities include the House of Correction, Criminal Justice Facility (Jail), Youth Detention Center and Behavioral Health Service's hospital.

### **Who is considered a critical infrastructure employee?**

A critical infrastructure designation is at the discretion of Department leadership, based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that define critical infrastructure as essential operations, including staffing operations centers, maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure, operating call centers, and performing tasks needed to provide critical services.

### **Why does a critical infrastructure employee, or an employee at a high-risk facility, who tested positive for COVID-19 require an antigen test and not a PCR test before returning to in-person work?**

Antigen tests are currently available at numerous locations where these employees work, and results are generally available more quickly than from PCR tests.

Staff at high-risk facilities are required to take a rapid test on day six before returning to in-person work due to the high level of risk for those they serve, as well as the general availability of antigen testing at high-risk facilities.

Critical infrastructure staff are highly encouraged to have a rapid test on day six out of a recognition that access to tests may be challenging. Note that as of January 15, 2022, individuals with health insurance should be eligible for reimbursement for rapid tests through their insurance.

### **What is the difference between an antigen test and a PCR test?**

An antigen test is a diagnostic test that detects specific proteins from the COVID-19 virus. Antigen testing is considered an effective option to quickly identify whether an individual is infectious. However, its lower sensitivity means an antigen test may not detect a COVID-19 infection if the viral load is relatively low.

A Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR or PCR) is a molecular diagnostic test that detects genetic material from the COVID-19 virus. It can take longer to receive results from PCR testing, but is considered the most effective option to identify whether an individual is infected. Specifically, PCR tests can often identify the virus in individuals who are in the early stage of infection or post infectious stage.

**Why do you specify the use of KN-95 masks? Aren't all in-person workers required to wear KN-95 masks?**

Yes, current masking policies mandate the use of KN-95 masks, but that may not always be the case, as policies are updated to reflect caseloads, etc. For that reason, we wanted to ensure that KN-95 masks will continue to be required for in-person workers who have been exposed to or who have confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**What if employees have trouble accessing tests?**

To find a testing site near you, visit <https://www.healthymke.com/testing>. If any employee has concerns about access to tests, they should notify their manager.

**In cases where an employee's booster status impacts the timing of their return to work, how will booster status be verified?**

Employees who are required to be Up to Date with vaccinations, that is, who must have a booster when eligible, must report their booster using this [form](#). Human Resources staff will verify booster status for these employees.

Do you have a question not included above, or covered in a decision tree? Contact your HR Business Partner or email [COVID-19@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:COVID-19@milwaukeecountywi.gov).